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ABSTRACT

This survey sought the opinions of faculty members at Bowie State College on 40 questions concerning academic and societal issues in public education. Responses to the survey questionnaire by faculty members represented a return of 14.5 percent, or 15 individuals. Tables are included comparing the responses of the Bowie State College sample and the responses to the Phi Delta Kappa national poll (September, 1987). (JD)

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BOWIE STATE COLLEGE TEACHING FACULTY'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PUBLIC EDUCATION

by

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BOWIE STATE COLLEGE BACKGROUND DATA

Bowie State College is a small historically black college in Prince George's County, Maryland. The institution began in 1865 as the "Baltimore Normal School". It was relocated to Bowie, Maryland in 1908 on a 187 acre tract in Prince George's county. By 1963, after several name changes, Bowie State College instituted a liberal arts program. By 1970, Bowie State College was authorized to grant its first Master of Education degrees. Today, the institution consists of a graduate School, Division of Continuing Education and a Weekend Program. According to the Bowie State College Catalog, 1987, there are a total of 2,524 students enrolled.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was administered by mail to all Bowie State College full-time faculty during the summer of 1987. A total of one hundred and three (103) faculty were mailed forms to their home addresses. A total of fifteen (15) faculty members returned survey forms. This represents a 14.5% return. Of those who returned forms, 8 or 53.3% were male and six or 40% were female. One person did not indicate sender. Racially, 7 or 46.7% were white, 7 or 46.7% were non-white and 1 or 6.7% did not indicate race. Six or 40% have doctorates, 6 or 40% have M.A. or M.S. degrees, 2 have other degrees and one person did not respond.

Ten of the respondents were between the ages of 30 and 49. Three were over the age of 50. Two individuals did not indicate age. Thirteen or 86.7% of the respondents are college teachers. One or 6.7% indicated administrator and 1 or 6.7% did not respond.

There were six (6) males between the ages of thirty (30) and forty-nine (49) and two (2) males aged fifty (50) or over. THere was one (1) female under the age of thirty (30), four (4) females between the ages of thirty (30) and forty-nine (49) and one (1) female over the age of fifty (50). One (1) person did not respond.

In terms of education, four (4) males had MA or MS degrees, three (3) had doctorates and one(1) had "other". Two (2) females had MA or MS degrees, three (3) had doctorates and one (1) had other. One (1) person did not respond.

Racially, four (4) males were white and four (4) male were nonwhite. Three (3) women were white and three (3) women were nonwhite. One (1) person did not respond.

In terms of the size of the community the respondent lives in, two (2) males indicated a community size of 500,000 - 1 million. Two (2) males indicated a community size of 50,000 - 499,999 and four (4) indicated a community size of 32,500 - 49,999. One (1) female indicated a community size of 500,000 - 1 million. One (1) female indicated a community size of 50,000 - 499,999 and three (3) females indicated a community size of 32,500 - 49,999. Six (6) males are Maryland residents and two (2) are D.C. residents. All six (6) women are Maryland residents. One (1) person did not respond.

All eight (8) males identified themselves as teachers. Five (5) women identified themselves as teachers and one (1) woman identified herself as an administrator.

Five (5) people aged thirty (30) - forty-nine (49) have MA or MS degrees. Three (3) people in this age group have doctorates and two (2) have other degrees. One (1) respondent over the age of fifty (50) has the MA or MS degree. Two (2) respondents over the age of fifty (50) have doctorate degrees. Six (6) whites and four (4) non-whites are between the ages of thirty (30) and forty-nine (49).

One (1) white and two (2) non-whites are aged fifty (50) or over.

Four (4) white and two (2) non-white respondents have MA or MS degrees. Three (3) white, three (3) non-white and two identified as "other" ahve doctorate degrees. One (1) person did not respond.

SURVEY

On the first question,"What do you think are the biggest problems with which the PUBLIC schools in this community must deal?", respondents indicated the following:

a. 1 or 6.7% indicated low morals
b. 1 or 6.7% indicated low pay
c. 2 or 13.3% indicated lack of parental support
d. 3 or 20% indicated motivation
e. 1 or 6.7% indicated violence
f. 3 or 20% indicated lack of discipline
g. 1 or 6.7% indicated low student achievement
h. 1 or 6.7% indicated lack of involvement of teachers
i. 3 or 20% indicated lack of respect for quality education
j. 1 or 6.7% indicated dropouts
k. 1 or 6.7% indicated teen pregnancy
l. 3 or 20% indicated quality, dedicated teachers
m. 1 or 6.7% indicated lack of authority of teachers and administrators
n. 2 or 13.7% indicated weak curriculum
o. 4 or 26.7% indicated drugs
p. 1 or 6.7% indicated too much student freedom
q. 1 or 6.7% indicated lack of student commitment
r. 1 or 6.7% indicated adequate supplies
s. 2 or 13.3% indicated lack of public/voter support
t. 2 or 13.3% indicated financial need
u. 1 or 6.7% indicated the need for good math/science teachers
v. 1 or 6.7% indicated race relations
w. 1 or 6.7% indicated the social attitudes of students towards education
x. 1 or 6.7% indicated illiteracy
y. 1 or 6.7% indicated leadership.

On the second question,"What grade would you give the public schools here - A, B, C, D or Fail?", respondents indicated the following:

a. 6 or 40 % graded schools "B".
b. 3 or 20% graded schools "C".
c. 6 or 40% graded schools "D".
d. No one graded schools "F".
e. No one indicated "don't know".

On the third question, "What grade would you give the public schools, nationally - A, B, C, D or Fail?", respondents indicated the following:

a. 3 out of 15 or 20% graded schools "B".
b. 8 out of 15 or 53% graded schools "C".
c. 3 out of 15 or 20% graded schools "D".
d. No one graded schools "F".
e. No one indicated "don't know".

On the fourth question, "...would you say public schools in this community have improved from, say five years ago, gotten worse, or stayed about the same, respondents said the following:

a. 7 or 46.7% said "improved".
b. 4 or 26.7% said "gotten worse".
c. 4 or 26.7% said "stayed about the same".
d. no one said "don't know".

On the fifth question, "...compared to five years ago, would you say student achievement in the local public schools has improved, gotten worse, or stayed about the same..." for above average, average and below average ability students, respondents said the following:

a. above average ability students

i. 8 or 53.3% improved
ii. 2 or 13.3% worse
iii. 4 or 26.7% same
iv. 1 or 6.7% don't know

b. average ability students

i. 3 or 20% improved
ii. 4 or 26.7% worse
iii. 8 or 53.3% same
iv. 0 or 05 don't know

c. below average ability students

i. 2 or 13.3% improved
ii. 3 or 20.0% worse
iii. 9 or 60.0% same
iv. 1 or 6.7% don't know

On the sixth question on the influence of the federal government, the respondents indicated the following:

a. 9 or 60% wanted more influence.
b. 6 or 40% wanted less influence.
c. no one wanted the same amount.
d. no one indicated "don't know".

On the seventh question on the influence of state government, the respondents indicated the following:

a. 10 or 66.7% wanted more influence.
b. 0 or 0% wanted less influence.
c. 5 or 33.3% wanted the same.
d. 0 or 0% indicated "don't know".

On the eighth question on the influence of the local government, the respondents indicated the following:

a. 10 or 66.7% wanted more influence.
b. 1 or 6.7% wanted less influence.
c. 4 or 26.7% wanted the same amount.
d. 0 or 0% indicated "don't know".

On the ninth question on various things the federal government might do for education, respondents indicated the following:

a. Promote educational programs that help solve social problems and unequal opportunities for minorities, women and the handicapped.

   i. 13 or 86.7% said yes.
   ii. 2 or 13.3% said no.
   iii. 0 or 0% said "don't know".

b. Identify national educational problems like illiteracy, poor math achievement, etc.

   i. 13 or 86.7% said yes.
   ii. 1 or 6.7% said no.
   iii. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".

c. Fund programs dealing with national education problem like illiteracy, poor math achievement, etc.

   i. 11 or 73.3% said yes.
   ii. 4 or 26.7% said no.
   iii. 0 or 0% said "don't know".

d. Advise and encourage state and local systems to deal with national education problems like illiteracy, poor math achievement, etc.

i. 13 or 86.7% said yes.
ii. 2 or 13.3% said no.
iii. 0 or 0% said "don't know".

e. Require states and local school districts to meet minimum education standards.

i. 12 or 80% said yes.
ii. 1 or 6.7% said no.
iii. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".

f. Provide scholarships and fellowships for college students.

i. 13 or 86.7% said yes.
ii. 1 or 6.7% said no.
iii. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".

g. Collect and report information and statistics which measure the performance of education in the nation.

i. 15 or 100% said yes.
ii. 0 or 0% said no.
iii. 0 or 0% said "don't know".

h. Fund research and development in areas of need, such as the curriculum and teaching methods.

i. 11 or 73.3% said yes.
ii. 4 or 26.7% said no.
iii. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".

j. Provide recognition and awards for high achievement by students, teachers, and schools.

i. 8 or 53.3% said yes.
ii. 6 or 40% said no.
iii. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".

k. Support a national testing program for public school students.

i. 5 or 33.3% said yes.
ii. 6 or 40% said no.
iii. 4 or 26.7% said "don't know".

On the tenth question on whether the requirement to take more courses in basic subjects like math and science while reducing elective courses would improve or hurt the quality of public schools here, respondents indicated the following:

a. 12 or 80.0% said "improve quality".
b. 0 or 0% said "hurt quality".
c. 3 or 20.0% said "don't know".

On the eleventh question on whether school districts would help or hurt schools if they require higher academic achievement of students, the respondents indicated the following:

a. 13 or 86.7% said help.
b. 0 or 0% said hurt
c. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".

On the twelfth question "Do you think raising achievement standards will encourage students from poor backgrounds to do better in school or will it cause them to become discouraged or to dropout", the respondents indicated the following:

a. 10 or 66.7% said yes, encourage.
b. 2 or 13.3% said no, discourage.
c. 3 or 20% said "don't know".

On the thirteenth question on who should check to see how well local schools conform to minimum standards in local public schools, the respondents indicated the following:

a. 5 or 33.3% said the states.
b. 10 or 66.7% said both.
c. 0 or 0% said "don't know".

On the fourteenth question, do you favor or oppose reporting educational achievement test results on a state by state and school-by-school basis so that comparisons can be made between schools of similar size and similar racial and economic make-up, respondents indicated the following:

a. 11 or 73.3% favor.
b. 4 or 26.7% oppose.
c. 0 or o% said "don't know".

On the fifteenth question, if students in the local public schools received higher test results than students in comparable schools elsewhere, would this encourage local schools to try to do a better job or not, respondents indicated the following:

a. 10 or 66.7% said yes.
b. 3 or 20.0% said no.
c. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".

On the sixteenth question, if students in the local public schools received lower test results than students in comparable schools elsewhere, would this encourage local schools to try to do a better job or not, respondents indicated the following:

a. 9 or 60% said yes.
b. 4 or 26.7% said no.
c. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".

On the seventeenth question, do you think the Department of Education is not needed, respondents indicated the following:

a. 4 or 26.7% agree.
b. 8 or 53.3% disagree.
c. 3 or 20% don't know.

On the eighteenth question asking respondents to guess what percentage or proportion of the total cost of public education in the nation, respondents indicated the following:

a. 2 or 13% said 5%.
b. 1 or 7% said 6%.
c. 2 or 13% said 8%.
d. 3 or 20% said 10%.
e. 1 or 7% said 20%.
f. 1 or 7% said 10-20%.
g. 1 or 7% said 30%.

On the nineteenth question asking respondents how much of the total cost of public education should be paid from federal taxes, respondents indicated the following:

a. 1 or 7% said 0%.
b. 1 or 7% said 1%.
c. 2 or 13% said 6%.
d. 2 or 13% said 10%.
e. 1 or 7% said 15%.
f. 1 or 7% said 20%.
g. 2 or 13% said 25%.
h. 2 or 13% said 30%.
i. 1 or 7% said over 30%.
j. 1 or 7% said longer.
k. 1 or 7% said "don't know".

On the twentieth question asking respondents if they favor or oppose the recommendation that public school teachers have a 4 year liberal arts degree with a major in a specific subject before entering a teacher training program, respondents indicated the following about the recommendation:

a. 13 or 87% favor.
b. 1 or 7% oppose.
c. 1 or 7% no response.

On the twenty-first question, should parents have the right to choose the programs their kids attended, respondents indicated the following:

a. 10 or 66.7% said yes, should have right to choose.
b. 3 or 20% said no, should not have right to choose.
c. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".

On the twenty-second question on if parents should have more or less say or have the right amount of say about the following areas in the public schools, respondents indicated the following:

a. on the curriculum; i.e., the courses offend.

i. 4 or 26.7% said more say.
ii. 5 or 33.3% said less say.
iii. 5 or 33.3% said right amount.
iv. 1 or 6.7% did not respond.

b. on the books and instructional materials.

i. 3 or 20% said more say.
ii. 7 or 46.7% said less say.
iii. 3 or 20% said right say.
iv. 2 or 13.3% did not respond.

c. on the books placed in the school libraries.

i. 2 or 13.3% said more say.
ii. 7 or 46.7% said less say.
iii. 4 or 26.7% said right amount.
iv. 2 or 13.3% did not respond.

On the twenty-third question on the voucher system being adopted in the U.S.A., respondents indicated the following:

a. 4 or 27% said yes.
b. 7 or 47% said no.
c. 3 or 20% said "don't know".

On the twenty-fourth question, do you think the voucher system would help or hurt the educational system in this country, respondents indicated the following:

a. 3 or 20% said "help system".
b. 8 or 53.3% said "hurt system".
c. 3 or 20% said "don't know".
d. 1 or 6.7% did not respond.

On the twenty-fifth question, do you think the voucher system would help or hurt the local public schools, respondents indicated the following:

a. 3 or 20% said "help local public schools".
b. 9 or 60% said "hurt local public schools".
c. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".
d. 1 or 6.7% did not respond.

On the twenty-sixth question, if you were the one to decide, what subjects would you require of every public high school student who plans to go to college and which would you not require, respondents indicated:

a. 14 or 93.3% would require math and 1 person or 7% did not respond.
b. 12 or 80% would require a foreign language and 2 or 13% would not. One person did not respond.
c. 14 or 93.3% would require science. One person did not respond.
d. 13 or 86.7% would require history/U.S. government, one person or 7% would not and one or 7% did not answer.
e. 13 or 86.7% would require English and two people or 13% did not respond.
f. 4 or 26.7% would require art, 8 or 53.3% would not and 3 or 20% did not answer.
g. 4 or 26.7% would require business, 8 or 53.3% would not and 3 or 20% uid not respond.
h. 4 or 26.7% would require music, 8 or 53.3% would not and 3 or 20% did not respond.
i. 11 or 73.3% would require health education, two or 13.3% would not and 2 or 13.3% did not respond.
j. 1 or 6.7% would require vocational training, eleven or 73.3% would not and 3 or 20% did not respond.
k. 8 or 53.3% would require physical education, 5 or 33.3% would not and 3 or 20% did not respond.
l. 13 or 86.7% would require computer training, one or 6.7% would not and one or 6.7% did not respond.
m. 5 or 33.3% would require career education, seven or 46.7% would not and 3 or 20% did not respond.

On the twenty-seventh question on courses for the high school students who aren't college bound, respondents indicated the following:

a. 14 or 93.3% would require mathematics and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
b. 2 or 13.3% would require foreign language, 9 or 60% would not and 4 or 26.7% did not answer.
c. 11 or 73.3% would require science, 3 or 20% would not and 1 or 7% did not answer.
d. 13 or 86.7% would require history/U.S. government, 1 or 6.7% would not and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
e. 14 or 93.3% would require English and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
f. 7 or 46.7% would require art, 3 or 20% would not and five or 33% did not respond.
g. 10 or 66.7% would require business, 4 or 26.7% would not and one or 6.7% did not respond.
h. 7 or 46.7% would require music, 3 or 20% would not and 5 or 33.3% did not answer.
i. 13 or 86.7% would require health education, 1 or 6.7% would not and 1 or 6.7% did not respond.
j. 11 or 73.3% would require vocational training, 3 or 20% would not and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
k. 12 or 80% would require physical education, 2 or 13.3% would not and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
l. 12 or 80% would require computer training, 2 or 13.3% would not and 1 or 6.7% did not answer.
m. 12 or 80% would require career education, 1 or 6.7% would not and 2 or 13.3% did not answer.

On the twenty-eighth question on whether public high schools should include sex education in their instructional program,

a. 12 or 80% said should.
b. 1 or 7% said should not.
c. 1 or 7% didn't know.
d. 1 or 7% did not answer.

On the twenty-ninth question, if you answered "should" in Question 28, what topics, if any, listed below should be included, respondents indicated the following:

a. 11 out of 12 or 92% said the biology of reproduction.
b. 8 out of 12 or 67% said the nature of sexual intercourse.
c. 9 out of 12 or 75% said premarital sex.
d. 8 out of 12 or 67% said homosexuality.
e. 12 out of 12 or 100% said veneral disease.
f. 12 out of 12 or 100% said birth control.
g. 10 out of 12 or 83% said abortion.
h. 12 out of 12 or 100% said AIDS.
i. 11 out of 12 or 92% said teenage pregnancy.
j. 0 out of 12 or 0% said None of the above.
k. 0 out of 12 or 0% said "don't know".

On the thirtieth question on whether public elementary schools should or should not include sex education in grades 4 through 8,

a. 12 or 80% said should.
b. 2 or 13% said should not.
c. 0 or 0% said "don't know".
d. 1 or 7% did not answer.

On the thirty-first question, if you answered "should" to question 30, which topics of the following should be included?

a. 11 out of 12 or 92% said the biology of reproduction.
b. 5 out of 12 or 42% said the nature of sexual intercourse.
c. 4 out of 12 or 33% said premarital sex.
d. 2 out of 12 or 17% said homosexuality
e. 8 out of 12 or 67% said veneral disease.
f. 7 out of 12 or 58% said birth control.
g. 4 out of 12 or 33% said abortion.
h. 8 out of 12 or 67% said AIDS.
i. 9 out of 12 or 75% said teenage pregnancy.
j. 0 out of 12 or 0% said none of the above.
k. 0 out of 12 or 0% said "don't know".

On the thirty-second question on the amount of attention to reading, writing and arithmetic in the elementary public school, respondents indicated the following:

a. 2 or 13.3% said enough.
b. 10 or 66.7% said not enough.
c. 2 or 13.3% said right amount.
d. 0 or 0% said "don't know".
e. 1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the thirty-third question on whether "character education" should be the responsibility of schools or parents and churches, respondents indicated the following:

a. 3 or 20% said schools.
b. 2 or 13.3% said parents and churches.
c. 9 or 60% said both.
d. 1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the thirty-fourth question asking if respondents said "yes" or "both" to Question 33, do they think courses on values and ethical behavior should be required in local public schools, respondents indicated the following:

a. 11 or 73.3% said yes, required.
b. 1 or 6.7% said don't know.
c. 3 or 20% did not answer.

On the thirty-fifth question on who should have most control over the content of values and ethical behavior courses, respondents indicated:

a. 2 or 13.3% the federal government.
b. 2 or 13.3% the state government.
c. 5 or 33.3% the local school board.
d. 3 or 20% the school administrators.
e. 7 or 46.7% the teachers.
f. 7 or 46.7% the parents.
g. 2 or 13.3% said "don't know".

On the thirty-sixth question on whether it would be possible to develop subject matter for the ethics course that would be acceptable to most people,

a. 12 or 80% said possible.
2 or 13.3% said not possible.
1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the thirty-seventh question on whether students should be excused from these ethics classes if parents objected,

a. 6 or 40% said yes, excused.
b. 7 or 46.7% said no, not excused.
c. 1 or 6.7% did not know.
d. 1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the thirty-eighth question on whether respondents would allow prayer in the public schools,

a. 11 or 73% said yes.
b. 2 or 13% said no.
c. 1 or 7% said "don't know".

On the thirty-ninth question, do you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution on prayer in the public schools,

a. 5 or 33.3% favor.
b. 5 or 33.3% oppose.
c. 1 or 6.7% "don't know".
d. 4 or 26.7% did not respond.

On the fortieth question on whether a smaller or large percentage of parents would be offended if prayer were allowed in the schools,

a. 2 or 13.3% said a large percentage.
b. 11 or 73.3% said a small percentage.
c. 1 or 6.7% said "don't know".
d. 1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the forty-first question on whether prayer should be permitted if it is offensive to a large percentage of parents, respondents indicated the following:

a. 3 or 20% yes.
b. 9 or 60% no.
c. 2 or 13.3% "don't know".
d. 1 or 6.7% did not answer.

On the forty-second question on whether school prayer should be permitted if it is offensive to a small percentage of parents, respondents indicated the following:

a. 9 or 60% yes.
b. 5 or 33.3% no.
c. 1 or 6.7% did not respond.

COMPARISONS WITH PDK/GALLUP POLL RESULTS PUBLISHED
in the PHI DELTA KAPPAN, September 1987, pp. 18-28.

1. Would you say that the public schools in this community have improved from, say, five years ago, gotten worse, or stayed about the same.

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Improved	25	46.7
Gotten Worse	22	26.7
Stayed about the same	36	26.7
Don't Know	17	0.0

2. Compared to five years ago, would you say that student achievement in the local public schools has improved, gotten worse or stayed about the same for students with above-average ability?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Improved	27	53.3
Gotten Worse	11	13.3
Stayed about the same	41	26.7
Don't Know	21	6.7

3. Compared to five years ago, would you say that student achievement in the local public schools has improved, gotten worse or stayed about the same for students with average ability?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Improved	19	20.0
Gotten Worse	14	26.7
Stayed about the same	45	53.3
Don't Know	22	0.0

4. Compared to five years ago, would you say that student achievement in the local public schools has improved, gotten worse or stayed about the same for students with below average ability?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Improved	20	13.3%
Gotten Worse	22	20.0%
Stayed about the same	35	60.0%
Don't Know	23	6.7%

5. Some school districts have been told that they must require higher academic achievement of their students. Do you think this requirement would help or hurt the quality of the public schools in this community?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Help quality	76	86.7
Hurt quality	11	0.0
Don't Know	13	13.3

6. Some people say that raising achievement standards will encourage students from low-income backgrounds to do better in school. Others say that raising the standards will put these students at such a disadvantage that they will become discouraged about school or will even drop out. Do you think that raising achievement standards will encourage students from poor backgrounds to do better in school, or will it cause them to become discouraged or to drop out?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes, encourage	52	66.7
No, discourage	30	13.3
Don't Know	18	20.0

7. It is now being proposed that educational achievement test results be reported on a state-by-state and school-by-school basis, so that comparisons can be made between schools of similar size and racial and economic make-up. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Favor	70	73.3
Oppose	14	26.7
Don't Know	16	0.0

8. Let's assume that the students in the local public schools received higher test results than students in comparable schools elsewhere. Do you think this would serve as an incentive for the local schools to do an even better job or not?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes	72	66.7
No	12	20.0
Don't Know	16	13.3

9. Let's assume that the students in the public schools in this community received lower test scores than students in comparable schools elsewhere. Do you think this would encourage the local schools to try to do a better job or not?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes	72	60.0
No	12	26.7
Don't Know	16	13.3

10. Do you think that parents in this community should or should not have the right to choose which local schools their children attend?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes	71	66.7
No	20	20.0
Don't Know	9	6.7

11. In some nations, the government allots a certain amount of money for each child's education. The parents can then send the child to any public, parochial or private school they choose. This is called the "voucher system". Would you like to see such an idea adopted in this country?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes	44	26.7
No	41	46.7
Don't Know	15	20.0
Did Not Respond		6.7

12. How about the public schools in this community? Do you think the voucher system would help or hurt the local schools?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Help local schools	36	20.0
Hurt local schools	42	60.0
Don't Know	22	13.3
Did Not Respond		6.7

	National Totals (%)		Bowie State College Sample %	
	Favor Vouchers	Oppose Vouchers	Favor Vouchers	Oppose Vouchers
Help	73	7		20.0
Hurt	16	81		53.3
Don't Know	11	12		20.0
Did Not Respond				6.7

13. Do you feel that parents of public school students should have more say, less say, or do they have the right amount of say regarding the curriculum, i.e., the courses offered?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
More Say	45	26.7
Less Say	8	33.3
Right Amount	37	33.3
Don't Know	10	0.0
Did Not Respond		6.7

14. Do you feel that parents of public school students should have more say, less say, or do they have about the right amount of say regarding instructional materials?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
More Say	38	20.0
Less Say	14	46.7
Right Amount	39	20.0
Don't Know	9	0.0
Did Not Answer		13.3

15. Do you feel that parents of public school students should have more say, less say or do they have about the right amount of say regarding the books placed school libraries?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
More Say	36	13.3
Less Say	16	46.7
Right Amount	38	26.7
Don't Know	10	0.0
Did Not Answer		13.3

16. Some school districts have been told that they must require students to take more courses in basic subjects, such as math and science, thus reducing the number of elective courses students can take. Do you think this requirement would improve or hurt the quality of the public schools in this community?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Improve Quality	75	80
Hurt Quality	11	0
Don't Know	14	20

17. Is it your impression that the public elementary schools give enough attention, or not enough attention to reading, writing, and arithmetic?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Enough	28	13.3
Not Enough	58	66.7
Right Amount	6	13.3
Don't Know	8	0.0
Did Not Answer		6.7

18. Please look over this card, which lists high school subjects. If you were the one to decide what subjects would you require every high school student who plans to go on to college to take?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Mathematics	94	93.3
English	91	86.7

(18 cont.)

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
History/U.S. Government	84	86.7
Science	83	93.3
Computer Training	72	86.7
Career Education	63	33.3
Business Education	59	26.7
Foreign Language	56	80.0
Health Education	54	73.3
Physical Education	45	53.3

19. What about those public high school students who do not plan to go to college when they graduate? Which courses would you require them to take?

	National 1987 %	Bowie State College Sample %
Mathematics	88	93.3
English	85	93.3
Vocational Training	78	73.3
History/U.S. Government	69	86.7
Business Education	65	66.7
Computer Training	61	80.0
Career Education	61	80.0
Science	57	73.3
Health Education	49	86.7
Physical Education	41	80.0
Foreign Language	20	13.3

20. Would you like the federal government in Washington to have more influence or less influence on improving the local public schools? How about the state government? How about the local government?

	Federal Government		State Government		Local Government	
	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
More	37	60	55	66.7	62	66.7
Less	39	40	21	0	15	6.7
Same Amount	14	0	15	33.3	15	6.7
Don't Know	10	0	9	0	8	0

21. In most cases, the state sets the minimum education standards in the local public schools. Who do you think should check to determine how well the local schools are conforming to these standards: The states or the local schools themselves?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
States	47	33.3
Local Schools	29	0
Both	15	66.7
Don't Know	9	0

22. About 10 years ago a new federal Department of Education was established. The present Administration says that such a department is not needed and that its functions should be performed by a smaller agency or by other departments of the government. Do you agree or disagree with this view?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Agree	39	26.7
Disagree	37	53.3
Don't Know	24	20.0

23. This card lists various things that the federal government in Washington might do for education in America. As I read off each item, would you tell me whether it is something that you think that the government should do, or should not do, for American education?

	National Sample			Bowie State College Sample		
	Yes %	No %	Don't Know %	Yes %	No %	Don't Know %
Requires state and local school districts to meet minimum educational standards	84	10	6	86.7	13.3	0.0
Advise and encourage state and local educational systems to deal with important national problems in education, such as illiteracy and poor math achievement	83	10	7	86.7	6.7	6.7
Identify important national problems in education, such as illiteracy and poor math achievement	81	12	7	73.3	26.7	0.0
Promote educational programs intended to help solve such social problems as poverty and unequal opportunities for minorities, women and the handicapped	80	12	8	86.7	13.3	0.0

(23. cont.)

	National Sample			Bowie State College Sample		
	Yes %	No %	Don't Know %	Yes %	No %	Don't Know %
Fund programs to deal with important national educational problems, such as illiteracy and poor math achievement	78	15	7	80.0	6.7	13.3
Provide recognition and awards for high achievement by students, teachers, and schools	76	17	7	86.7	6.7	6.7
Support a national testing program for public school students	74	17	9	100	0	0
Collect and report information and statistics that measure the performance of education in the nation	73	18	9	73.3	26.7	0
Fund research and development in areas of need, such as the curriculum and teaching methods	72	19	9	66.7	26.7	0
Provide financing for scholarships and fellowships for college students	72	20	8	53.3	40.0	6.7
Provide financial aid to the states through block grants that can be used for education or for any other purpose	57	30	13	33.3	40.0	26.7

24. It has been proposed that the public schools include courses on "character education" to help students develop personal values and ethical behavior. Do you think that courses on values and ethical behavior should be taught in the public schools, or do you think that this should be left to the students' parents and the churches?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes, schools	43	20
No, parents and churches	36	13
Both	13	60
Don't Know	8	0

25. Do you think that it would be possible or not possible to develop subject matter for a character education course that would be acceptable to most of the people in this community?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Possible	62	80
Not Possible	23	13.3
Don't Know	15	0
Did Not Answer		6.7

26. If courses about values and ethical behavior were required in the local public schools, who do you think should have the most to say about the content of the courses? The federal government in Washington, the state government, the local school board, the school administrators, the teachers, or the parents?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Parents	42	46.7
Local school board	24	33.3
Teachers	14	46.7
School administrators	10	20.0
State government	9	13.3
Federal government	5	13.3
Don't Know	12	13.3

27. If students or their parents objected to what was taught in these classes, do you think the students should be excused from these classes or not?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Yes, excused	52	40
No, not excused	37	46.7
Don't Know	11	6.7
Did Not Answer		6.7

28. Do you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow prayer in the public schools?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Favor	68	33.3
Oppose	26	33.3
Don't Know	6	6.7
Did Not Answer		26.7

29. Do you think that a small percentage or a large percentage of the public would be offended if prayer were permitted in the public schools?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Large percentage	18	13.3
Small percentage	71	73.3
Don't Know	11	6.7

30. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves, in this community, were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools here - A, B, C, D, or Fail?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
A & B	43	Not Collected
A	12	0
B	31	40
C	30	20
D	9	40
FAIL	4	0
Don't Know	14	0

31. and 32. None of the data collected from the B.S.C. Kappan form matches these questions.

33. How about the public school in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally - A, B, C, D, or Fail?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
A & B	26	Not Collected
A	4	0
B	22	20
C	44	53.3
D	11	20
FAIL	2	0
Don't Know	17	0
Did Not Answer		6.7

34., 35., 36., 37., 38., 39., 40. None of the data collected from the B.S.C. Kappan form matches these questions.

41. A recommendation has been made that anyone who wants to become a public school teacher must have a four-year libral arts degree with a major in some subject before he or she can enter any teacher training program. Do you favor or oppose this recommendations?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Favor	72	86.7
Oppose	17	6.7
Don't Know	11	6.7

42. Do you feel that the public high schools should or should not include sex education in their instructional program?

Should	76	80.0
Should Not	16	6.7
Don't Know	8	6.7
Did Not Answer		6.7

43. Do you feel that the public elementary schools should or should not include sex education in grades 4 through 8?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Should	55	80.0
Should Not	37	13.3
Don't Know	8	0.0
Did Not Answer		6.7

44. Which of the following topics, if any, listed on this card should be included in sex education in high school? In elementary school?

Topics That Should Be Included

	In High School		In Elementary School	
	National Survey 1987 %	Bowie State College Sample %	National Survey 1987 %	Bowie State College Sample %
AIDS	84	80.0	58	53.3
Birth Control	83	80.0	49	46.7
Venereal Disease	86	80.0	59	53.3
Biology of Reproduction	80	73.3	82	73.3
Premarital Sex	66	60.0	37	26.7
Nature of sexual intercourse	61	60.0	41	33.3
Abortion	60	60.0	28	33.3
Homosexuality	56	53.3	30	13.3
Teen Pregnancy	84	73.3	87	53.3

45. What do you think are the biggest problems which the public schools in this community must deal?

	National Totals %	Bowie State College Sample %
Use of drugs	30	26.7
Lack of discipline	22	20.0
Lack of proper financial support	14	13.3
Difficulty in getting good teachers	9	20.0
Poor curriculum/poor standards	8	13.3
Large schools/overcrowding	8	Not in BSC sample
Moral standards	7	6.7
Parents' lack of interest	6	13.3
Pupils' lack of interest/ truancy	6	6.7
Drinking/alcoholism	6	Not in BSC
Teachers' lack of interest	5	6.7
Low teacher pay	5	6.7
Teen pregnancy		6.7
Motivation		20.0
Lack of authority for teachers and administrators		6.7
Violence		6.7
Low Student Achievement		6.7
Lack of respect for quality education		20.0
Too much student freedom		6.7
Lack of student commitment		6.7
Adequate supplies		6.7
Educational equity for all students		6.7
Lack of public/voter support		13.3

46., 47., and 48. No questions in the Bowie State College survey are related to the remaining questions as published in the Phi Delta Kappan.